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AMSAT NEWS SERVICE BULLETIN 049.01 FROM AMSAT HQ
SILVER SPRING, MD FEBUARY 18, 1989
TO ALL RADIO AMATEURS BT

Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiment #2 Undergoes Testing in Huntsville, AL

This week the Shuttle Amateur Radio Experiment #2 (SAREX-2) packet radio station underwent extensive testing at the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, AL according AMSAT Area Coordinator Ed Stluka (W4QAU). This testing was being perfomed in conjuction with the training of STS-35 Payload Specialist Ron Parise (WA4SIR) in the use of the ASTRO-1 experiment which will be primary payload on that shuttle mission. The primary payload, ASTRO-1, will be used to conduct a number of astronomical experiments. During the several days of testing this week, radio amateurs in the Huntsville area were invited to connect to WA4SIR and to receive a QSO number.

This special packet radio station flying on STS-35 on May 9, 1990 will give each radio amateur who connects to WA4SIR a QSO number confirming their contact. When the connecting station sends their QSL card in with this contact number, they will receive back a beautiful QSL card commemorating this HAM IN SPACE shuttle flight. The SAREX-2 packet radio station consist of a Motorola 2M FM H/T with 5 watts ouput, a Heathkit HK-21 TNC-2, and a GRiD laptop computer that has a 40 MB hard disk drive to store the calls of all the stations connecting to WA4SIR during the nine day mission. The specially written software which will be running the SAREX-2 packet station is designed to allow for completely unattended operation and logging of the calls of all connecting stations. It will also prevent duplicate QSO numbers being sent! Although no digipeating will be allowed through SAREX-2, connecting to this packet station will be like any terrestrial packet contact. Just use your TNC along with your 2m tranceiver, and everything else is the same. After you have connected and received your QSL number from WA4SIR, on subsequent orbits you can watch for the SAREX-2 message beacons being sent periodically. The message beacons will contain information about the flight of STS-35 and other interesting items.

Look for more information about the SAREX-2 mission in AMSAT News Service (ANS) bulletins and on AMSAT HF/VHF nets in the next couple of months. For more specific information about the ASTRO-1 payload, contact the SPACELINK BBS at (205) 895-0028.

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"For every problem, there is one solution which is simple, neat and wrong." -- H.L. Mencken